(15)

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE

New River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

FOREST HOME CHURCH, ASHE COUNTY, N. C.,

October 4th, 5th and 6th, 1883.

REV. W. C. PARKS, ... MODERATOR.
H. A. ELLER, ... CLERK.

RALEIGH:
EDWARDS, BROUGHTON & CO., STEAM PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1883.

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

Forest Home Baptist Church, Ashe Co., N. C.,
Thursday, October 4th, 1883.

The New River Baptist Association convened with Forest Home Baptist Church, Ashe county, N. C., in its thirteenth annual session, Thursday, October 4th, 1883. The annual sermon was preached by Elder L. D. Vaughn from the text 1 Cor., 15th chapter and 58th verse: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast," &c.; and after a short recess the Association was called to order by the Moderator, and, in the absence of the Clerk, Bro. H. A. Eller was chosen Clerk *pro tem.*

Letters from the different churches were presented and read, and the names of delegates enrolled.

An opportunity was offered to newly constituted churches to unite with this Association, when messengers from Wytheville Baptist church, Wythe Co., Va., presented a letter, which was read, and,

On motion, said church was gladly received as a member of this body, and the hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer for the present Associational year by private ballot.

Bro. H. H. Ray, from the Brushy Mountain Association, and Bro. James H. Field, from the New Union Association, Ga., were appointed tellers, who, after taking the vote, announced as the result Elder W. C. Parks Moderator, and H. A. Eller Clerk and Treasurer; both of whom accepted and the Association proceeded to business.

An opportunity was offered to visiting brethren to report themselves, when brethren H. H. Ray and James H. Field, the former from the Brushy Mountain Association and the latter from the New Union Association, Ga., reported themselves as visitors and received the hand of welcome from the Moderator and took seats in the body.

On motion, brethren W. J. Morrisett, A. M., and Princi-

pal of Oak Hill Academy, and W. G. Young were requested to prepare a synopsis of the proceedings of this Association and report the same to the *Religious Herald*, Richmond, Va., and the BIBLICAL RECORDER, Raleigh, N. C.

On motion, a committee consisting of brethren W. G. Young, I. P. Mays and P. J. Ernest was appointed to report during the session on Books and Periodicals.

The following committees were then announced:

On Arrangements—Brethren W. J. Morrisett, Jas. Eller, Albert Blevins, A. Stamey, S. Blackbern, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance—Brethren F. C. Young, J. F. York and Jas. Blevins.

On Time, Place and Preacher for next Association—L. W. Brewer, W. G. Young and John Hudler.

On Religious Exercises—Pastor and delegates of this church with A. Barker and Elijah Tucker.

On motion, a committtee was appointed on Resolutions consisting of brethren J. F. Fletcher, A. Stamey and P. J. Ernest.

The committee on Religious Exercises submitted the following report: Preaching at the church to-night by Elder N. M. Blevins, and to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock by Elder James H. Field.

On motion, the Association agreed to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and spend half an hour in devotional exercises, and adjourn promptly at 11.

On motion, the Association adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder A. Stamey. Benediction by the Moderator.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, October 5th, 1883.

The Association met at 9 o'clock. Spent half an hour in devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator.

At 9½ o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The roll of delegates was called and corrected.

Letters from Fellowship and Pine Branch churches were then presented, read and the names of the delegates enrolled.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with this body.

On motion, speeches were limited to the time of ten minutes during the present session.

Elder W. M. Hall offered a report on Sunday School and Bible Board, and after remarks by Elders Hall, Woodson and others, was adopted.

The subject of church edifices was then considered, and, after remarks by Elder A. Stamey and the Moderator, the Association, according to the agreement of yesterday, adjourned at the hour of 11 a. m., to hear an able sermon from Elder James H. Field. Text, Matt. 16 : 18.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association resumed business at half past 1 o'clock.

The committee on Finance submitted the following report:

Received for printing Minutes	$30 65
For Sunday School and Bible Board	1 00
For ministers' relief fund	2 50

Report received and committee discharged.

The subject of church edifices was returned to, and after remarks by Elders Murry and Stamey, the following resolutions were offered by Bro. W. G. Young and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be, and they are hereby tendered to Rev. A. Stamey for the remarkable success that has attended his efforts in erecting a church edifice at Snow Hill, Va., free from debt; but as this building has cost Bro. Stamey a large amount of its cost, and he having sustained considerable loss during the year, therefore,

Resolved, 2*d*, That we recommend Bro. Stamey to the sympathies and benevolence of our churches.

Resolved, 3*d*, That we recommend to Bro. Stamey to proceed as soon as possible to organize a Baptist church at that place, and that trustees from said church be appointed and a title made to them to hold and use said house of worship as a church of the New River Association.

Brethren from different churches spoke of new church edifices which were contemplated and begun.

The Moderator announced that the regular order of business would be taken up, viz:

The report on the Evils of Intemperance, which was submitted by Elder J. F. Fletcher, and was followed by able remarks from Elders A. Stamey, C. J. Woodson, J. F. Fletcher and Bro C. O. Davis. Report adopted.

Bro W. G. Young, representing the committee on Books and Periodicals, submitted a report, and after remarks by

Elders I. P. Mays, W. M. Hall, A. S. Murry, J. F. Fletcher and others, the report was adopted.

On motion of Bro. Woodson, the report on Education was postponed till an indefinite time to-morrow.

The committee on Religious Exercises submitted the following report: Preaching to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock in the church by Elder C. J. Woodson, and at 2 p. m. at the stand by Elder A. S. Murry.

On motion, the Association adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder W. M. Hall. Benediction by the Moderator.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, October 6th, 1883.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and spent half an hour in devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Bro. W. G. Young offered the following resolution of thanks, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association tender their thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends of this vicinity, who have so kindly entertained us during this session.

The roll of delegates was then called.

The committee on Time, Place and Preacher for next Association, submitted the following report:

Thursday before the first Sunday in September, A. D. 1884, as the time; Baptist Union Church, Grayson county, Va., 13 miles west of Independence and 18 miles southwest of Marion, Va., as the place; Elder J. F. Fletcher to preach the Annual Sermon and Elder A. S. Murry, alternate.

Report adopted.

A letter from New Hope church was then presented and read, and the names of brethren J. C. Jones and Allen Jones were enrolled as delegates from that church.

The report on Ministers' Relief Fund was submitted by Bro. W. G. Young, and, after remarks by Bro. A. Stamey, the delegates and friends contributed $3.85 for that Board, and after other remarks by Elder J. H. Field and the Moderator, the report was adopted.

On motion, the report on Education was submitted by

Elder J. C. Woodson, in the absence of Bro. W. J. Morrisett, A. M., and Principal of Oak Hill Academy, and after remarks by the Moderator, the Association took a recess to hear an able and stirring sermon from Elder C. J. Woodson. Text: Rev. 3 : 15: "I would thou wert cold or hot."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association resumed business at half past one o'clock p. m., and after remarks by brethren J. Eller and C. J. Woodson, the report on Education was adopted.

Bro. Thomas Duncan from the Brushy Mountain Association reported himself a visitor and took a seat in the body.

State Missions was then considered and after encouraging reports from A. S. Murry and L. D. Vaughn, missionaries in the bounds of this Association, besides remarks from others, $3.50 was contributed to the State Mission Board.

The subject of Foreign Missions was then considered and a verbal report by Bro. J. Eller was submitted, and after remarks by Elders C. J. Woodson and J. F. Fletcher, the Association contributed $8.08 to this object.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. J. F. York and adopted:

Resolved, That the Bro. Clerk be instructed to have as many Minutes printed as the money in his hands will pay for, after deducting therefrom $6.00 for his services, and distribute them among the churches according to the amount paid.

Bro. Woodson offered the following resolution of thanks which was adopted:

Resolved. That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to Rev. W. C. Parks and Bro. H. A. Eller for the courteous and efficient manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

On motion of Bro. C. J. Woodson, the money on hand for the State Mission Board was directed to be paid to Bros. A. S. Murry and L. D. Vaughn, missionaries in this Association.

The following Standing Committees were then announced:

On Home Missions—F. C. Young.
On State Missions—L. N. Perkins.
On Foreign Missions—James Eller.
On Sunday School and Bible Board—W. M. Hall.
On Education—W. J. Morrisett.
On Ministers' Relief Fund—W. G. Young.
On Temperance—J. F. Fletcher.
On Duties of Churches to Pastors—J. C. Jones.
On Duties of Pastors to their Churches—A. Stamey.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported preaching at night by Elder W. M Hall and Elder T. M. Duncan to follow. On to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock Elder C. J. Woodson in the house, and Elder A. Stamey at the stand, and Elder A. S. Murry at 2 o'clock p. m.

The minutes of to-day were read, corrected and approved.

On motion of Bro. J. F. Fletcher, the Association adjourned to time and place before stated.

Prayer by Elder J. H. Field. The brethren united in singing and extended to each other the parting hand. Benediction by Elder A. Stamey.

W. C. PARKS,
MODERATOR.

H. A. ELLER,
Clerk.

SABBATH.

At half-past 9 o'clock a Sunday School Mass Meeting was held. The Moderator opened the meeting by reading Scripture and prayer.

On motion, speeches in this meeting were limited to five minutes each. And the time till near 11 was occupied in speeches on the subject of Sunday Schools by brethren A. Stamey, W. J. Morrisett, A M., L. D. Vaughn I. P. Mays, C. J. Woodson, C. O. Davis, N. J. Speers and J. H. Field, with the Moderator, when the meeting passed the following resolution, offered by Bro. Morrisett:

Resolved, That the pastors and delegates of this Association, go to their respective churches and use their efforts to open an evergreen Sunday School and report the statistics at the next Association.

The meeting then adjourned.

At 11 o'clock a. m., Elder C. J. Woodson preached in the church to a large audience and Elder A. Stamey at the stand at the same time. The text of the former is contained in Matt. 15: 16, and that of the latter in Matt. 16: 26.

At 2 o'clock p. m., Elder A S. Murry preached a feeling discourse. Text Luke 14: 17: "Come, for all things are now ready." Bro. J. H. Field concluded. Thus passed off another delightful session of the New River Association.

CERK.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE BOARD.

Your committee deem it unadvisable to burden the Minutes of the Association with extended arguments upon the utility or desirableness of work of the Sabbath School and Bible Board, since the Association, and the churches composing this Association, have so often affirmed the most unqualified conviction of the importance of this department of christian effort or work, as a powerful auxiliary in the accomplishment of the evangelization of the world. We prefer, therefore, to occupy the small space allowed to a report upon this subject with such facts as we have been able to cull from the minutes of our General Association.

It should not be forgotten that in Virginia a Sunday School and Bible Board is especially entrusted with this work, but for want of adequate means its operations have necessarily fallen far short of what might otherwise have been accomplished. The following extract from the report of the Sunday School and Bible Board of the General Association, as it appears in the last minutes, will show you what has been done in the course of the past year just ending:

Twenty-nine colporteurs are in the field, who were employed 3,409 days, travelled 34,648 miles, visited 11,764 families. They found 1,032 persons habitually neglecting preaching, and 840 families destitute of the Bible. They gave away 287 Bibles valued at $78.09, 347 Testaments valued at $32.06, 717 books valued at $178.70, 33,476 pages of tracts valued at $30.18. Total grant $319.67.

And yet the New River Association formed but little part in the work, as the Minutes are silent upon the subject. We feel that an array of facts, such as the above, must and will inspire our churches with increased interest in this work, and propose to enter more fully than heretofore, a field so inviting to christian effort for the salvation of souls.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. M. HALL.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Apostle Peter admonished his brethren to add temperance to their faith; therefore, brethren, not only add temperance to your faith, but total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, except in cases of extreme necessity as a reason. We do not urge the fact that one person dies every two and one-half minutes in this country and every land from the effects of ardent spirits, but we invite your attention to facts that come every day under your own observations. It is a fact, and a deplorable one, that we harbor men who make and sell ardent spirits. We condemn the practice, and recommend the churches to put such persons from among them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. FLETCHER, Chm'n.

REPORT ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Your committee would earnestly recommend to this Association that we, as Baptists, subscribe for and read either the *Religious Herald*, published at Richmond, Va., or the BIBLICAL RECORDER, published at Raleigh, N. C., as we

believe that these papers are faithful exponents of Baptist principles and truth. Also the *Home and Foreign Journal*, as furnishing highly necessary information as to the work and progress of our denomination. The History of the early Baptists of Virginia, by R. B. C. Howell, we would recommend as furnishing both useful and beneficial information, and should be read by every person in the land as well as Baptists.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. YOUNG, Chm'n.

REPORT ON MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND.

The very idea of forming this Board was suggested by the destitute condition of a number of our wornout and disabled ministers, and also the families of ministers who were left in straightened circumstances. It is needless to urge the importance of this Board upon those who understand its objects, for we are persuaded that every one feels a deep solicitude for the welfare of every minister and his family. It is certainly a commendable work, and if prayerfully considered by every earnest thinker, will prove a blessing to many needy and worthy persons. We know not how soon some of our preachers may become disabled, or some family of a minister in our midst be left in destitute circumstances, and by giving to this object we will be doing as we would wish to be done by. Respectfully,

W. G. YOUNG.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Knowledge is power, but does not come intuitively. Institutions of learning are designed to impart it, and without any disparagement of the numerous schools and colleges scattered over the country, we desire to recommend as eminently worthy of public confidence and patronage, Oak Hill Academy, under the management and control of Prof. W. J. Morrisett, whose high christian character and splendid scholastic attainments peculiarly qualify him for the delightful task of training the young.

We would also recommend as worthy of patronage, Richmond and Wake Forest Colleges, both of which have attained high rank among the literary institutions of the land.

C. J. WOODSON.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND—Apple Grove $1.05, Baptist Union $1.35, Forest Home $1.10, Galena $2.00, Liberty Hill $1.00, White Top $2.50—total $9.00.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD—Liberty Hill 70 cents, Pleasant Home $2.00—total $2.70.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE BOARD—Forest Home 57 cents, White Top $1.00—total $1.57.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—Fellowship $1.15, Forest Home $1.10—total $2.25.

AMOUNT PAID L. D. VAUGHN, MISSIONARY ON THE FIELD—Apple Grove $12.15, Forest Home $13.79, Liberty Hill $5.50, Laurel $6.15, Mt. Pleasant $3.20, Pleasant Home $5.25, State Line $5.10, White Top $18.15—total $69.29.

Churches, Pastors and Clerks, and their Post Offices.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Apple Grove	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C	Allen Miller, Weasel, Ashe county, N. C.
Baptist Union	W. C. Parks, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va	M. D. Holdaway, Flat Ridge, Grayson county, Va.
Fellowship	W. M. Hall, Sparta, Alleghany county, N. C	Wm. Stamper, Elk Creek, Va.
Forest Home	W. C. Parks, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va	H. A. Eller, Mouth of Buffalo, Ashe county, N. C.
Grubb's Chapel	W. C. Parks, " " " " "	F. C. Young, Bridal Creek, Grayson county, Va.
Galena	L. D. Vaughn, Stephen's Creek, Va	W. R. Sprinkle, Stephen's Creek, Va.
Hebron	None	A. Stamey, Meadow Creek, Grayson county, Va.
Liberty Hill	W. C. Parks, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va	R. W. Young, Grant, Grayson county, Va.
Laurel	N. M. Blevins, Green Cove, Va	William Trivette, White Top, Va.
Landmark	J. F. Fletcher, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C	A. Barker, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.
Mt. Pleasant	T. M. Duncan, Beaver Creek, Ashe county. N. C	A. P. Howell, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.
New Hope	W. M. Hall, Sparta, N. C	J. H. Ellis, Prather's Creek, Alleghany county, N. C.
Pickets	A. Stamey, Meadow Creek, Va	N. Frazier, Cranberry Plains, Carroll county, Va.
Pleasant Home	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C	Albert Blevins, Bristol, Ashe county, N. C.
Pleasant Grove	None reported	John Kirk, Independence, Va.
Pine Branch	None	A. Hash, Clem's Branch, Va.
State Line	N. M. Blevins, Green Cove, Va	L. L. Ray, Matney, Johnson county, Tenn.
White Top	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C	F. L. Lewis, Green Cove, Washington county, Va.
Wytheville	C. J. Woodson, Van Liew, Va	A. A. Kerr, Max Meadows, Va.
Young's Chapel	None	L. N. Perkins, Mouth of Wilson, Va.

ORDAINED MINISTERS—Galena 2, Hebron 1, Landmark 1, Mt. Pleasant 1, Pleasant Grove 1, Pine Branch 2, White Top 2, Wytheville 1, Young's Chapel 2—total 13.

LICENTIATES—Apple Grove 1, Baptist Union 1, Liberty Hill 2, Mt. Pleasant 1, New Hope 1—total 6.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	*Sabbath of Preaching.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec. by letter.	Received by Application.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dis. by letter.	Died.	Paid to Pastors.	Printing Minutes.	S.S. Teachers and Scholars.	Total Membership.
Apple Grove	2	Elihu Tucker, Wm, Miller and E. L. Tucker	6	9	1	1	1	--	--	$ 8 25	$ 1 50	42	48
Baptist Union	1	L. W. Brewer, Allen F. Tucker and C. O. Davis	--	--	2	--	4	1	2	30 00	2 00	----	115
Fellowship	4	Jesse F. York	--	8	----	--	2	2	1	-------	-------	126	59
Forest Home	2	James Eller, P. J. Ernest, R. L. Shoaf and A. F. Wilcox	--	--	----	--	6	1	--	25 00	2 50	47	50
Grubb's Chapel	4	F. C. Young and Noah Bishop	8	--	2	--	--	--	--	15 00	1 90	88	59
Galena	1	L. D. Vaughn, C. J. Woodson and Clark Vaughn	--	1	----	--	--	10	--	-------	1 00	56	54
Hebron	----	A. Stamey	--	--	----	--	--	--	--	-------	75	----	19
Liberty Hill	3	Sanders Carter and Elijah Parks	2	3	----	--	--	1	--	16 00	1 05	----	77
Laurel	3	S. Pennington and Eli Pennington	8	1	----	--	--	1	--	6 90	1 50	----	29
Landmark	1	J. F. Fletcher, Edward Barker, Jr., L. N. Barker and A. Barker	4	--	----	--	1	--	--	19 95	-------	----	38
Mt. Pleasant	3	S. Blackbern, W. Blevins, T. A. Johnson and A. P. Howell	--	--	----	1	--	--	--	3 00	-------	----	49
New Hope	2	M. B. Upchurch, J. C. Jones and Allen Jones	7	1	1	--	1	--	--	-------	1 75	38	28
Pickets	4	A. Stamey, (proxy)	1	--	----	--	--	--	--	-------	1 00	----	21
Pleasant Home	4	A. Blevins, John Hewdler and Eli Reedy	4	2	----	--	1	2	1	25 50	2 00	80	46
Pleasant Grove	4	Not represented by delegates	--	1	----	--	--	--	--	15 00	60	48	13
Pine Branch	2	A. S. Morry	--	--	----	--	--	--	--	-------	1 10	----	39
State Line	4	W. H. Blevins, M. Gentry and J. L. Gilbert [M. Miller.	4	--	2	3	--	--	--	16 07	1 50	30	39
White Top	1	N. M. Blevins, J. M. Walls, J. Blevins, F. L. Lewis, A. J. Blevins and	13	1	----	--	--	--	--	15 50	3 00	----	95
Wytheville	3	I. P. Mays	--	--	----	--	--	--	--	50 00	1 50	----	14
Young's Chapel	2	W. C. Parks, W. G. Young, Prof. W. J. Morrisett and W. M. Hall	--	5	----	--	--	8	1	60 00	3 00	80	69
			57	32	8	5	16	26	5	$305 27	$27 65	635	961

*Church Conference for business occurs on Saturday before the Sundays of preaching.

NOTE.—There are three churches, viz: Landmark, Mt. Pleasant and Fellowship, that failed to state in their letters the amount of Minute money sent. $30.65 was the whole amount paid in for that purpose, which would leave $3 that these churches paid. Increase since last year in membership, 39.